

Remarks

The Applicants acknowledge the restriction requirement wherein the claims are divided into Group I, including Claims 1-16 and 19-20; Group II, including Claims 17-20; and Group III, including Claims 19-20.

The Applicants elect Group I including Claims 1-16 and 19-20. This election is made without traverse.

The Applicants also note the requirement for the election of a single disclosed species of a compound of Formula (1). The Applicants accordingly elect Formula (1) as shown on page 11 of the Applicants' specification. That formula is beraprost sodium. The Applicants respectfully submit that all of Claims 1-16 read on the elected species.

The Applicants have cancelled Claims 19-20 from Group I of the elected claims. Thus, Claims 1-16 of the elected group remain for substantive examination.

The Applicants have amended Claims 3 and 4 to place them into better form for examination. Also, the Applicants have amended Claims 10-17 to remove improper or excessive dependencies. Further, Claims 12-14 have been amended to place them into better form for allowance. Claim 18 has been amended so that it depends from a single claim. New Claim 21 is directed to the subject matter deleted from Claim 18. Entry of these amendments and new Claim 21 into the official file is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully request early examination on the merits and allowance of Claims 1-16.

Respectfully submitted,



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